**From:** **Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US**
**Sent:** 3/22/2012 5:54:51 PM

**To:** Mathy Stanislaus/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Larry Stanton/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
**CC:**
**Subject:** Re: Dimock Statement - Methane, Lithium, etc.

We're on it,

----- Original Message -----
**From:** Mathy Stanislaus
**Sent:** 03/22/2012 05:43 PM EDT
**To:** Dana Tulis; Larry Stanton; Gilberto Irizarry
**Subject:** Fw: Dimock Statement - Methane, Lithium, etc.

Pls review this - Tx.

----- Original Message -----
**From:** Shawn Garvin
**Sent:** 03/22/2012 04:57 PM EDT
**To:** Richard Windsor; Betsaida Alcantara; Bob Perciasepe; Bob Sussman; Diane Thompson; Brendan Gilfillan; Lisa Feldt; Mathy Stanislaus
**Subject:** Dimock Statement - Methane, Lithium, etc.

FYI - Attached and below are the draft statements on the various issues we have been focusing on. This is the result of close coordination between RIII and HQ. Please let me know your thoughts so we can finalize them and begin to share them with folks that have expressed interest. We are looking to also post the data once we have these finalized.

Thank you - Shawn

[attachment "Dimock round one results analysis 32212.docx" deleted by Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US]

General Statement:
EPA is working diligently to be transparent and thorough in our ongoing sampling of drinking water from more than 60 private home wells in Dimock, Pa. EPA made a commitment to provide the residents with data that was based on the best science and to give a clear picture about the potability of drinking water at these homes as soon as possible. To date, we have completed analytical results for the first 11 homes that were sampled. Our actions will continue to be based on the best available science and legal authorities as we work to help provide a complete picture of water quality for homes in Dimock.

On safety of drinking water at the 11 homes:
While the Agency is not drawing any conclusions for the entire area based on this initial round of sampling, the first round of sampling at these 11 homes did not find contaminants that exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) under the Safe Drinking Water Act. For contaminants that were found that do not have a designated MCL, our toxicologists and risk assessors thoroughly reviewed all the data and concluded that none of the levels detected present a health concern for the general population , working with the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) as appropriate.

On methane levels:
As there is no MCL for methane, EPA selected a screening level used by the federal Office of Surface Mining of 28 parts per million for dissolved methane in drinking water. According to OSM, methane does not impair the odor, taste or color of the water, nor does it in any way affect the potability of the water. When a well is found to have methane levels above 28 ppm, we immediately take action to notify the resident, the state, and the county emergency management agency. This would also trigger a toxicological review and expedite a quality assurance review. EPA found methane above this level in well water at one out of the 11 homes in the first round of samples. This well was not connected to the residence at the time of the sample because the resident was receiving alternate water from Cabot. Nevertheless, EPA has notified that resident, who indicated they were already aware that their water contained levels of methane. EPA also notified Pennsylvania DEP and the Susquehanna County EMA, and can provide recommendations to affected residents in the event that use of well water is resumed. EPA will continue to follow this process should there be any similar instance.

On lithium levels:
Based on EPA's sampling, lithium appears to be quite common in the drinking water in Dimock, with EPA finding more than half of the wells sampled showing some level of lithium between 25 ug/L and 200 ug/L. There are also two wells with levels in the 200-500 ug/l range, one of which is receiving alternate water. There are, however, no homes in the Dimock area with lithium results even close to levels that, according to ATSDR, may present an acute health threat, i.e., above 1,500 ug/L. In any case, EPA is discussing lithium results along with all their sampling results with individual residents, and is also arranging for consultations with the residents with ATSDR as desired. Given the prevalent nature of lithium in the area, and the fact that EPA did not find any situations that present a serious health concern, we have determined that there is no basis for providing alternate water to additional residences at this time. As new data presents itself, EPA will continue to review it and make decisions on any appropriate response based on science and the law.

On data:
EPA will be releasing a compilation of the analytical data, available so far, of the private residential wells sampled in Dimock. This information will be made available on the Agency's website soon and will follow the requirements of the Privacy Act. We will continue to share the data on a rolling basis with homeowners over the next weeks.

On Trigger Levels:
Trigger levels, as referred to in the data summaries, are not intended to reflect a basis for a response action or the existence of a health concern, but rather to ensure that all data is given careful scientific consideration regarding the potential for health effects and the need for Agency action. Trigger levels are values used in evaluating the analytical lab results for this project. These trigger levels enable EPA to quickly identify those data results that warrant further scientific review so that EPA can determine whether the results present a health concern, and make timely decisions on whether additional response actions may be appropriate at the residence. The scientific review includes a consideration of conditions at the residence, such as whether the resident is actually using the well water, and most importantly a detailed toxicological evaluation by an Agency risk assessor. Note that an Agency risk assessor evaluates all sampling data, whether triggers are exceeded or not. The trigger levels themselves are derived from values found in the Agency's Regional Screening Level (RSL) Table, a compilation of the latest toxicological information maintained by EPA. Using the RSL table, the trigger levels for the chemicals at this project were developed based on the upper end of the Agency's cancer risk range (a one-in-a-10,000 cancer risk) for carcinogens; and for non-carcinogens, a Hazard Quotient (HQ) of 1; the level not expected to cause any adverse effects. Consideration was also given to Federal and State drinking water standards (MCLs), where they exist. Where a substance may have an MCL, if the cancer risk value or the non-cancer HQ were lower than the MCL, the lower value was set as the trigger level for screening purposes.